

**CLAIMS**

1. Apparatus for assisting an individual using a client computer to analyze a domain-specific parameter, comprising:
  - 5 a server computer executing computer program instructions to
    - (1) receive from the client computer an identification of a parameter to be analyzed,
    - (2) obtain from a data source a current value for the parameter, and
    - (3) provide to the user computer an evaluation of the current value and an explanation of a possible significance of that evaluation.
- 10 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein providing an evaluation of the current value includes dividing into broad bands a range the parameter values have experienced over a predetermined period of time, and relating the current value in terms of said bands.
- 15 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein providing an evaluation further includes providing a possible or likely significance of the value falling within a specific band.
4. The apparatus of any of claims 1 - 3 further including the server computer executing program code to provide a reference to one or more additional tools or parameters that might  
20 beneficially be studied next.
5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the parameter is a performance characteristic of a publicly traded security.
- 25 6. A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having encoded therein computer program instructions for execution by a server computer for assisting an individual at a client computer to analyze a domain-specific parameter, said computer program instructions comprising instructions which, when executed, cause the server computer to
  - 30 (1) receive from the client computer an identification of a parameter to be analyzed,
  - (2) obtain from a data source a current value for the parameter,

(3) provide to the client computer an evaluation of the current value and an explanation of a possible significance of that evaluation.

7. The computer program product of claim 6, wherein the instructions which cause the server  
5 computer to provide an evaluation of the current value include instructions dividing into  
broad bands a range the parameter values have experienced over a predetermined period of  
time, and relating the current value in terms of said bands.

8. The computer program product of claim 7, wherein the instructions causing the server  
10 computer to provide an evaluation further include instructions which when executed cause  
the server computer to provide a possible or likely significance of the value falling within a  
specific band.

9. The computer program product of any of claims 6 - 8 further including instructions which  
15 when executed by the server computer provide a reference to one or more additional tools or  
parameters that might beneficially be studied next.

10. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the parameter is a performance  
characteristic of a publicly traded security.

11. A method for assisting an individual to analyze a domain-specific parameter, comprising:  
a. providing a server computer;  
b. providing a client computer in communication with the server computer; and  
c. operating the server computer to execute computer program instructions to  
25 (1) receive from the client computer an identification of a parameter to be analyzed,  
(2) obtain from a data source a current value for the parameter, and  
(3) provide to the user computer an evaluation of the current value and an  
explanation of a possible significance of that evaluation.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein operating the server computer to provide an evaluation  
30 of the current value includes executing program instructions to divide into broad bands a

range the parameter values have experienced over a predetermined period of time, and relating the current value in terms of said bands.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein operating the server computer to provide an evaluation  
5 further includes operating the server computer to execute instructions providing a possible or likely significance of the value falling within a specific band.

14. The method of any of claims 11 - 13 further including the server computer executing  
10 program instructions to provide a reference to one or more additional tools or parameters that might beneficially be studied next.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the parameter is a performance characteristic of a  
publicly traded security.